Area for East-Coast Railway Zone

2241. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether the area of East-Coast Railway Zone in Orissa has been notified; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): No, Sir. East Coast Railway Zone has not been notified as the whole process of creation of new zones is under review in view of severe resource crunch now being faced by the Railways as well as problems in re-defining the zonal boundaries.

Electrification at Railway Track in Orissa

2242. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total length of rail track in Orissa;

(b) whethe most of the rail track in the State has been electrified; and

(c) whether Government have any action plan to complete rail electrification by 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) As on 1.4.2001, out of the total 2317 Route Kilometres falling in the State of Orissa, 736 Route Kilometres have been electrified. Further, the electrification work on 486 Route Kilometres is in progress on different sections. After completion of this, total Route Kilometres electrified in the State of Orissa would be 1222 Route Kilometres.

(c) Investment planning on the Railways is done in a national perspective. It is a need based exercise which takes into account the requirements of the system as a whole, operational importance of projects, their physical progress, national and strategic significance, social relevance and the availability of resources. Action Plans for completion of Railway Electrification Projects are drawn up accordingly.